

“I. The Formative Period, extending from its earliest beginnings to the Death of Solomon, 933 B. C. During this period the Hebrew people passed through the various stages of their *material* development until it had reached its height under David and Solomon.

“II. The Period of the Prophets, extending from the Division of the monarchy, upon the death of Solomon, to the Restoration in the time of Cyrus, 933-538 B. C. During this period the Hebrew state passed through various stages of dissolution, ending in the exile. It gave the prophets of Israel the occasion to view religious truth apart from the national life. It aided them to attain to their highest conceptions in religion and morals, consisting in a pure ethical monotheism, that is, the belief in the personal and holy God, and a broad universalism.

“III. The Period of the Priests, extending from the Restoration in the time of Cyrus to Herod I, 538 B.C.—44 A. D. During this period the Jewish national life developed into a church rather than a state, into a hierarchy instead of a monarchy. The emphasis was upon the Law, ritualism, and a narrow exclusivism. The result was the formation of petty sects, each with its own national hopes and aspirations.”

The reviewer would take issue at many points with the conclusions of the author; though it is but fair to say that Dr. Peritz does not needlessly offend conservative readers. The more advanced scholars would excuse the author's desire to recommend his conclusions to readers who have been brought up in circles in which the authority of the Bible is fully recognized.

The presentation of the material will prove attractive in schools and colleges. The titles of the various sections are often happily stated; the type is clear, the margins wide; and “Suggestions for Study” are appended to each chapter.

JOHN R. SAMPEY.

The Ten Commandments: With a Christian Application to Present Conditions. By Henry Sloane Coffin. George H. Doran Co., New York, 1915. 216 pp. \$1.00 net.

Dr. Coffin discusses in a pleasing style the ethical topics suggested to the Christian mind by the Ten Commandments. One does not hear the thunders of Sinai nor see the fire flashing from the mount. There is an absence of the note of authority, even when the teaching of Jesus is cited. Many valuable and timely lessons are enforced by the preacher. The needs of the modern world are constantly in the foreground of the discussion.

The author probably overstates the matter when he interprets the Second Commandment as prohibiting all sculpture and painting among the Hebrews.

The modern preacher can learn from Dr. Coffin how to relate the Decalogue to present conditions, and how to interpret the several commandments in the light of our Lord's perfect ethical teaching.

JOHN R. SAMPEY.

The Afflictions of the Righteous. By W. B. Macleod. George H. Doran Co., New York. 297 pp. \$1.50 net.

The Book of Job will never lack students. The problems discussed in this ancient religious poem appeal to thoughtful minds in all ages. The author of the book under review is minister of the Candlish United Free Church, Edinburgh. If we are to take the lectures on Job as a specimen of the discourses Mr. Macleod delivers to his congregation, we feel like extending to his people our congratulations.

Two features of the treatment are pointed out by the author as distinctive, viz., the summaries of the arguments of the friends, of Job's reply to the friends, of Job's expostulation with God, etc., and the large space given to the teaching of Christ on the problems raised in the Book of Job.

Our Scotch brethren seem to be able to interpret Job with singular ability. Perhaps the best commentary on Job is the volume by Prof. A. B. Davidson, in the Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges. Mr. Macleod's exposition makes easy and profitable reading.

JOHN R. SAMPEY.